Importance of Software

When most people think of NASA technology, software does not always come to mind. However, software is a strategic asset and a valuable NASA technology. Software inventions and innovations, like any other NASA technology, should be reported and released in order to maximize its benefit to NASA and the general public.

The Commercial Technology Office and Software Release Authority (SRA) at each Center work together to ensure the proper release of software. Each NASA Center has a process for software release that begins with the Software Developer, includes the Commercial Technology Office and ends with the Center SRA's approval or rejection of the request for the software release.

Policy and Guidance

The NASA Policy is found in NPD 2210, and NASA Guidance is in NPG 2210. Your advisor, guide and champion through this process is the Center SRA.

Learning More about Commercializing Software

For more information about software release and commercialization, visit the NASA Software Release Web site at:

http://training.nttc.edu/sra/default.asp

This Web page includes detailed information and several resources, including downloadable forms and documents for you to get started.

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http://training.nttc.edu/sra/default.asp

Software Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Software Release

Who/What Is an SRA?

Your Center's Software Release Authority manages and directs the software release process. In making the final decision on software release requests, the SRA assures that the proper steps are taken to maximize the benefit both to NASA and to American society.

The SRA is a Center civil servant who staffs software requests for review and assigns release categories and restrictions designed to protect software proposed for release. The SRA works with Center Management, the Export Control Officer, the Commercialization Manager, Patent Counsel and the Information Technology Security Official to ensure that all software has been cleared for release in accordance with all NASA guidelines and policies.

The SRA also inventories NASA-funded software that has been submitted for release, maintains record keeping and tracks metrics.

How Does Software Commercialization Affect You?

Your role in NASA often determines your responsibilities with reporting and commercializing software. Since NASA's investment in Software Technology Transfer is meant to achieve greater, "balanced" returns on investment, many individuals have an important role. Roles of some of the key players in this process are as follows:

- *Researchers and Software Authors* – document and protect intellectual property (IP) and request authorization to release software
- *Commercial Technology Office* – conduct a commercial assessment and enter pertinent information in the NASA TechTracs database
- *Patent Office* – conduct an IP assessment to determine IP ownership and obtain IP protection on behalf of NASA, as appropriate
- *Export Control* – determine export control restrictions, if any, establish an export classification and ensure that any foreign release complies with all applicable laws and regulations
- *IT Security* – review software release requests for a myriad of security concerns
- *SRA* – guide the request for software release through the review process, resolve issues and make the final determination on restrictions

Commercialization

Types of Software Releases

There are different categories for software release. The civil servant proposing the release of software must request the appropriate category. This can be done in collaboration with the SRA at your Center. The software release process will ultimately determine the most appropriate type of release for your software.

SRA Contacts THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS CAN HELP YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SOFTWARE RELEASE:

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